

well in health and spirits, thankful to God for His Holy Spirit vouchsafed to us in many a tight corner, when the enemies of truth assailed us. Perhaps thousands have heard our testimony concerning the great Latter-day work, and we give God the glory for strength to maintain its principles. We returned to our respective districts through the Mangakahia, to continue our missionary labors, finding all well with the people, who wanted to know where we had been during the last ten weeks. Everybody looking forward to conference. President Gardner and Elder Bartlett are now laboring in its interest in the far north. May God bless Zinn and all who favor her welfare. Your brother in the Gospel,
B. H. HOLLINGWORTH.

SANPETE STAKE CONFERENCE.

The conference of Sanpete Stake was held in the Ephraim meeting house on the 9th and 10th of February, 1895. Present, of the Council of Apostles, Elders Brigham Young and John Henry Smith; of the Stake Presidency, Canute Peterson and Counselors, the High Councilors, and Bishops of wards.

At 10 a.m. on the 9th Elder Canute Peterson expressed his pleasure in meeting so many of the Saints in conference; believed the Saints are making some progress; we should be grateful for the abundant harvest the past season, and the many facilities within our reach. He gave a good report of the Stake.

Elders Henry Beal and John B. Mathen followed in reporting the condition of the Stake, testifying to the reformation in progress among the Saints, and cautioned the Saints to beware of the many allurements creeping in among the people, for the Gospel contains all that is necessary for those who obey it.

Elder Brigham Young said he could not see any good reason why we should prove recreant to our calling; we are enjoying the fruits of the labors of the men who have lived and died for the blessings we now enjoy; they are hand in hand with us; though we cannot see them, yet they are with us and rejoice when they see the Saints united. They realize that their labors have not been in vain. We should remember we are not living for ourselves alone, but for those who have gone before, and for those who shall follow after. He spoke upon the necessity of learning to know the voice of the Lord, and to understand the inspiration of the Holy Ghost; that this land will be a land of Zion to all those who keep the commandments of God.

2 p.m.—After opening exercises, five Bishops made a report of their wards, reporting a time of general health, an increase in tithes and fast day offerings, and a spirit of reformation generally.

Elder John H. Smith discoursed upon the force of habit, and how habits formed early in life will constantly snow themselves, apparently in spite of education and the acquiring of more correct habits later in life; it is the design through the Gospel to effect a thorough reformation to the habits and lives of those who will obey its precepts. He exhorted the Saints to be diligent in observing the law

of tithing, as that is a law of God. We are likely to have an experience quite the reverse of our former experience, which latter would likely consist of laudation and praises, and these by the leaders among men; no doubt many are and will be tried through the acts of some in the endeavor to establish civil government among the people—trials will arise from a variety of causes.

7 p.m.—The people again assembled and after the usual opening exercises, Elder Brigham Young gave an excellent discourse upon the lack of confidence among the Saints, and its evil effects; contrasted our manner of dealing with each other with the way we deal with those not of our faith; that men would dispose of everything they have were it necessary to do so, to meet their obligations to the latter class; but our obligations to the former we apparently are not much troubled about. He gave several examples illustrative of the above from his own experience and observations among the people, and warned the Saints that a most thorough reformation is necessary before the blessings promised can be realized in their fullness.

Sunday, 10 a.m.—After opening exercises, Elder McAlister, president of the Mantle Temple, addressed the Saints, reviewing cursorily the many trials, temptations, difficulties and hardships many of the early Elders have passed through in carrying the Gospel to the nations, and the many other duties incident to the great latter-day work. He kindly invited the Saints to come to the Temple and do the work necessary for the redemption of their dead, and very kindly promised all the assistance possible in the keeping of private records and hunting up genealogies, etc. He invited the poor as well as those who are well to do—let all come who can, while opportunities are so ample.

The statistical report was read, and Elder J. B. Mathen presented the general authorities of the Church and the Stake authorities, all of whom were sustained by unanimous vote; John C. Kjar was sustained as alternate High Councilor in place of Jens Mickelson, taken for counselor to the Bishop of Mantle South ward.

2 p.m.—After the opening exercises the Sacrament was administered, and Elder John Henry Smith said he believed it to be the opinion of some that an Elder should at all times be under the influence of the Holy Spirit, but in his experience such is not always the case; yet we are enjoined from teaching without the Spirit. He believed that to those who live near it, the Lord the Lord more readily gives His holy spirit; many, no doubt, have learned in their experience the determination of the Lord to make useful our dependence on Him. The Lord desires to prepare a people to meet Him at His coming, which is near at hand, and that we may not make the mistake the people did at His first coming—they looked for a mighty king and conqueror, and were not prepared to receive Him as the Savior of the world. He rejoiced in listening to the remarks made upon the labor for the redemption of the dead, and said he believed there is a greater proportion of good people on the earth now than at any previous period of its existence.

Elder Young said he hoped we have been mutually blessed; he felt stronger by attending this conference, and hoped the Saints feel desirous to build up the kingdom of God. He read from the Doctrine and Covenants on the agency of man, and showed that we exercise our agency in choosing to keep the commandments of God; when we now fail we break our agreement so to do. When the Lord has a blessing to bestow upon an individual we can obtain it in the way the Lord has appointed and in no other; there are certain events coming on the earth and we cannot turn them aside by disbelieving them; there needs as much preparation to meet them as in the days of Noah; there may not be a flood of waters, but a flood of infidelity is sweeping over the land, coming from the so-called Christian nations; let every man exercise himself for Zion, for this is the only labor before us.

During all the meetings the house was filled to its full capacity, although quite a heavy snow fell during conference.

GEORGE TAYLOR,
Clerk.

ARIZONA LETTER.

PHOENIX, Feb. 12, 1895.

The legislature of Arizona has been in session three weeks. The organization was effected by the choice of J. H. Carpenter as speaker of the house—a member of long experience in such business from Yuma county, and he makes an excellent presiding officer, and Mr. A. J. Darran, of Pinal county, as president of the council. A goodly number of bills have been introduced to both houses, many of which will be an improvement to our laws if they become such.

The Salt and Gila River valleys in Arizona are destined to become one of the greatest agricultural districts in the West with a climate where alfalfa is green and grows twelve months out of the year, and yields eight to ten tons per annum, and oranges are a success as well as a great variety of fruits, grains, sweet potatoes, etc. I saw wheat headed out on Feb. 3rd at Mesa; and when the great system of storage reservoirs and canals of the Hudson Reservoir company and others are complete, which are, so far as I know, the most extensive in the arid West, there will be homes for many more people to these valleys. According to the last report of Governor Hughes, there is about 100,000 acres of land in these valleys planted to alfalfa.

I will give an item about the liquor traffic as per Governor Hughes' report to the secretary of the interior, 1894, page 55. He says: "We have 672 saloons and ten wholesale liquor houses in Arizona, and it has been estimated that Arizona's drink bill for the year was \$3,056,000, which is no small sum for 65,000 people, and that at least fifty per cent of the cost of maintaining our county and territorial governments comes from intemperance." Our counties and the territory are taxed heavily, but he, the governor, says we pay in one year more than enough for liquor to pay every cent of our territorial, county and municipal debts and have \$50,000 left. I think all Latter-day Saints could learn a lesson from this statement. More anon. C.